

March News Letter

March 1st, 2016

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Greetings Chesterbrook Families!

Welcome to MARCH!

Did it come in like a lion/lamb?

Guess what?! We have another FUN and BUSY month for you and your little ones as we continue to embark upon a year of wonderful educational experiences.

Check out our calendar and upcoming events to see “what’s new” at Providence Road West 😊

~Melanie Spurlock and Candi Staines~

Cooking Fun: Exploring Diversity

Jell-O Rainbow

Ingredients:

- One small package of Gelatin flavors of red, orange, yellow, green and blue
- 1 1/4 Cup hot water for each package
- Whip cream

Directions:

- Dissolve jell-o in boiling water (don't add cold water).
- Place each color in a separate bowl or flat buttered pan.
- Chill.
- When gelatin is set cut into squares. Place on a serving platter creating a rainbow of colors in the colors listed above.
- If desired, before serving add whip cream at the end of the rainbow and add golden chocolate coins.



Read more: <http://www.kids-cooking-activities.com/St-Patricks-day-recipes.html#ixzz4118NpKVI>

dates to Remember

The Month of March- Families are encouraged to sign-up with their child's Class to bring/read a beloved Dr. Seuss book.



March 1st – 14th EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION for our current families (2016/2017 school-year). SECURE YOUR SPOT, TODAY!

March 2nd- Dr. Seuss' Birthday!

March 3rd- JUMPBUNCH classes may begin (Thursdays).

March 4th -MUSIC FOR LITTLE ONES DEMO CLASS (Toddlers/Beginners, Intermediates, and PreK/PreK2).

March 12th- Open House 10am – 1pm

March 13th -Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 14th- Eastern Orthodox Lent Begins

March 17th- St. Patrick's Day (GREEN DAY!!)

Everyone wear green and we will have green snacks!) *Class Parties @3pm.



March 20th- Spring Beings/Palm Sunday

March 27th - Easter

March 28th - Easter Monday

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Why spend your evenings and weekends driving to and from practices and programs when your child can participate right here at school? Please see the front desk for more information on any of these wonderful programs!



***WEDNESDAYS:** Soccer Shots @ 9:30am

Soccer Shots has three rules: Score a goal, be a team player, and HAVE FUN! This is a great way to get some extra physical fitness in and have a blast doing it! Spaces are still available so sign up today!!



***March:** We would love to start Thursday classes, so sign-up, soon!

Music for Little Ones

By Kathy Bellavia

March 4th : Demo class.

Looking to begin Monday classes at 3:30 pm, so sign-up, now!

“Our music program successfully engages children ages one to six in hands on musical activities, making them active participants and enhancing their overall development.”

“Music for Little Ones” is an educational program that we know and have trusted for years, as Ms. Kathy works with all of our sister schools. We are excited to bring this program to Chesterbrook Academy at Providence Road West!

FROM THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Introducing Your Preschooler to the Fascinating World of Non-Fiction

When you think about children's books, you might envision princesses in castles, talking animals or a flying magic school bus. Although it's fun to read these types of stories with your child, it's important to also introduce him to non-fiction books. You may be surprised to learn that he's fascinated with exploring real people, places and things!

Non-fiction is not only interesting to children, but it also creates an important foundation for learning. It helps children build new vocabulary, develop critical thinking skills, fuel their curiosity and gain a better understanding about the world around them.

Below are ways we integrate non-fiction in the classroom, as well as activities you can try at home.

INFANTS:

In the classroom: Infants love to look at faces, so our teachers choose non-fiction books that include photographs of people, such as *Global Babies* by Global Fund for Children. Afterward, they show the baby a photo of his own family and talk about the people in the photo. For example, "Look, Ben. Here's your mom. Who's she holding? That's you."

At home: Read multi-sensory picture books with your child. Choose non-fiction books with different textures and bright colors to help stimulate his growing sensory awareness.

Recommended reading: *Families* by Rena D. Grossman, *Bathtime (Baby Touch & Feel)* by DK Publishing

TODDLERS (ages 1-2):

In the classroom: Toddlers learn the names of different animals and vehicles and the sounds they make. While singing songs with students, our teachers ask, "What does a pig say?" or "What sound does a fire truck make?"

At home: Point out photographs of familiar animals and vehicles in magazines or books. Ask your child to mimic the noise that each item makes. This can also be done in the car as you're driving around your neighborhood.

Recommended reading: *Baby Animals* by National Geographic Kids, *Noisy Trucks* by Tiger Tales

BEGINNERS (ages 2-3):

In the classroom: Teachers and students read non-fiction books by going on picture walks. A picture walk motivates children to rely on pictorial clues to decipher the story's plot and make predictions. Before reading the story, they flip through the book, and the child is encouraged to make predictions about the characters and plot. The teacher then reads the book aloud to the student. When finished, the teacher asks questions to start a conversation about the text.

At home: Visit a library with your child, and let him choose a book. Take a picture walk through the book with him. When you're finished, ask the librarian to recommend a non-fiction book about the same topic. For example, if you read *Clifford the Big Red Dog*, your child might also be interested in *Puppies, Puppies, Puppies*, a non-fiction book by Susan Meyers.

Recommended reading: *My First Baseball Book* by Sterling Children's, *Everything Spring* by Jill Esbaum

INTERMEDIATES (ages 3-4):

In the classroom: Our Intermediate teachers combine non-fiction reading with dramatic play. After reading a book about farm life, children create their own farm in the dramatic play center and pretend to be farmers. Children gain a better understanding of the book, practice problem solving skills, and use new vocabulary.

At home: Select a book with large photographs or illustrations. Flip through the book, and let your child stop on pages that interest him. Don't worry about reading every page. Ask him to tell you what is going on in the pictures, and encourage him to make comparisons to experiences he's had in real life. For example, if you pick a book about weather, you might ask, "Where do we go in the summertime when it's hot?" or "Why do we use an umbrella in the springtime?"

Recommended reading: *Watching the Seasons* by Edana Eckart, *Wings* by Melanie Mitchell

PRE-K/PRE-K2 (ages 4-5):

In the classroom: Our older preschoolers read a non-fiction book paired with a fiction book, and compare and contrast the two stories. After reading *Stella Luna* and *Bat Loves the Night*, the teacher

might ask, “In *Stella Luna*, the bat slept upright. Is that how a real bat sleeps?” Students may also create a Venn diagram that shows similarities and differences in the two books.

At home: Read various forms of non-fiction with your child, including books, brochures and flyers. Challenge him to find sight words in the text. Afterward, ask him to write in his journal what he would like to learn about next. Use that information when choosing another piece of non-fiction.

Recommended reading: *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin (fiction), *Wonderful Worms* by Linda Glaser (non-fiction)

By introducing children to both fiction and non-fiction texts in the preschool years, they become comfortable with a wide range of subjects and acquire the skills needed to comprehend important information in kindergarten and beyond. They are better able to tap into their interests and enjoy learning about real world people, places and things.

– Lauren Starnes, PhD – Director of Early Childhood Education